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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04314 041902Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 ARA-11 IO-14 OMB-01
TRSY-02 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PH-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /134 W
-----038669 050559Z /17

R 040940Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4145
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, AF, PINS, CH, IR, PK, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON AFGHANISTAN'S NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURE: ALI GUL PAIWAND

1. (LOU-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: AN INTRODUCTORY COURTESY CALL MAY 31 BY THE A/DCM AND
THE PAO ON ALI GUL PAIWAND, RECENTLY APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND CULTURE, (THE CALL HAD BEEN DELAYED FOR MORE THAN A
WEEK BECAUSE PAIWAND HAD BEEN AWAY "AT THE FRONT"), RESULTED IN A
LONG AND CANDID EXCHANGE WITH THAT KHALOI HARD-LINER. WHEN PAIWAND
RECITED THE USUAL KHALOI LIST OF DRA SLOGANS ABOUT "FRIENDLY RELATIONS,"

THE A/DCM REPLIED THAT FRIENDSHIP HAS TO BE DISPLAYED IN BOTH
DIRECTIONS, RESULT IN MUTUAL BENEFITS, AND SHOULD BE EXPRESSED

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PAGE 02 KABUL 04314 041902Z

IN ACTION RATHER THAN SOLELY IN WORDS. END OF SUMMARY.

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3. PAIWAND OPENED THE HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW WITH A FAMILIAR RECITATION ON AFGHANISTAN'S POLICY OF "POSITIVE NONALIGNMENT AND PURE NEUTRALITY,"

INCORPORATING NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, DESIRE FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, AND "SUPPORT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION GROUPS AND ANTAGONISM TO IMPERIALISTS WHO SUPPORT SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION OR EXPLOIT OTHER COUNTRIES." WHILE THE DRA "DESIRES FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AMERIC," HE SAID, THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE DRA WITH ANY COUNTRY WOULD BE "IN THE MEASURE OF THAT COUNTRY'S FRIENDLINESS TO OUR REVOLUTION." ***

4. THE A/DCM REPLIED WITH A DESCRIPTION OF U.S. HELP OVER THE YEARS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD TRIED TO CONTINUE THAT COOPERATION WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE AREA OF LAND REFORM, BUT THAT THE AMERICAN OFFERS HAD MET ONLY SILENCE FROM THE DRA. FRIENDSHIP HAS TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, HE SAID, THROUGH CONCRETE ACTIONS. THE U.S. OPPOSES INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS, HE DECLARED, WHETHER IT IS VIETNAM IN CAMBODIA, THE PRC IN VIETNAM, OR THE SOVIET UNION IN AFGHANISTAN. THE PRINCIPLE REQUIRED AN EVEN-HANDED APPLICATION. FOR EXAMPLE, HE ASKED, HOW DID THE DRA RATIONALIZE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE WITH ITS VOTE IN THE UN LAST YEAR ON THE CUBAN-IRAQI RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO? HE REMINDED PAIWAND THAT OUR EMBASSY HAD REPEATEDLY DESCRIBED THIS ISSUE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS AN INTERNAL MATTER.

5. PAIWAND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. AID TO HELMAND VALLEY DEVELOPMENT, THE CONSTRUCTION TO KANDAHAR AIRPORT, AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN. HE EVADED REPLYING TO THE QUESTION
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PAGE 03 KABUL 04314 041902Z

ABOUT PUERTO RICO, BUT ASSERTED THAT "PEKING, TEHRAN, AND ISLAM-ABAD ARE INTERFERING IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS." APPARENTLY PURPOSEFULLY ENIGMATIC, HE CONTINUED THAT: "WE KNOW ABOUT THE CURRENT LONDON CONFERENCE OF MUSLIM LEADERS AND WHAT IT IS FOR; WE KNOW ABOUT CENTO, AND WHAT IT IS FOR. WE KNOW ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO PINOCHET'S OPPRESSION IN CHILE. WE REJECT THE TREATY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL."

6. A/DCM REITERATED THAT THE U.S. OPPOSED INTERFERENCE BY ANY OUTSIDE STATE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN OR ANY

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OTHER COUNTRY, AND THAT THE U.S. RESPONSIBLY INVITES A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF ITS ROLE IN THE MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS, ASKING TO BE JUDGED BY THE RESULTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA -- A PEACE THAT MUST BE FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN ARABS AND OTHERS IN THE REGION.

7. PAIWAND SAID THE DRA WOULD BE FRIENDLY TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE SAME MEASURE THAT THEY ARE FRIENDLY TO "OUR REVOLUTION," WHICH WAS MOVING FORWARD "INEVITABLY." HE ADDED THAT "OUR PEASANTS ARE NOT FIGHTING US IN THE CURRENT WAR." THEY ARE TENDING PLOTS WE HAVE GIVEN THEM IN LAND REFORM. OUR REVOLUTION LETS THE WORKERS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, EXPRESS THEMSELVES."

8. THE A/DCM CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION BY OBSERVING THAT THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN COULD DISAGREE ON SPECIFIC MATTERS, WHILE CONTINUING TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS. PAIWAND AGREED AND SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT "WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TALK IN SUCH A CANDID MANNER."

9. COMMENT: PAIWAND, SOMETIMES CALLED "THE POET LAUREATE OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION," MADE HIS REPUTATION AS A DEDICATED PARTY WORKER AND A RECITER OF EXHORTATORY POETRY AT PARTY RALLIES. HE IS A PASHTUN FROM NANGARHAR. "PAIWAND" IS A DARI PSEUDONYM MEANING "PUTTING TOGETHER." HE WAS GRADUATED FROM KABUL UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF LETTERS, AND EMERGED FROM OBSCURITY AFTER THE APRIL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04

KABUL 04314 041902Z

1978 COUP. IN THE PAST YEAR, HE HAS HELD A SERIES OF POSITIONS, EACH FOR A VERY BRIEF PERIOD (UP TO THREE MONTHS) AS HE MOVED HIGHER IN THE BUREAUCRACY. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE POTAT DEPARTMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, EDITOR OF THE "ANIS," EDITOR OF "DA SAUR ENQELAB," AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT CO. OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. HE IS SECRETARY OF KABUL'S KHALQI DISTRICT SIX. PAIWAND'S UPWARD MOMENTUM IS APPARENTLY DUE TO ABDUL QAYOUM NOORZAI, WHOM HE REPLACED AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE WHEN NOORSAI BECAME EDITOR OF "KHALQ," THE PARTY PUBLICATION. NOORZAI WAS NOT FRIENDLY TO INFORMATION AND CULTURE MINISTER KATAWAZI, AND NEITHER IS PAIWAND. NOORZAI REPORTEDLY USED HIS INFLUENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN AND THE POPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE PAIWAND'S APPOINTMENT.

10. PAIWAND, WHO IS OF MEDIUM BUILD, HAS COARSE BLACK HAIR. HIS SKIN IS SOMEWHAT SWARTHY, WITH FRECKLES. ALTHOUGH HE IS POLITE,

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PAIWAND DOES NOT CONVEY MUCH PERSONAL WARMTH. HE APPEARS TO BE INTELLIGENT AND GRASPS QUICKLY WHAT HE IS BEING TOLD. HE IS A PARTY APPARATCHIK WHO APPEARS TO BEIN THE WAY TO MORE SENIOR LEVELS.

11. FOR LONDON: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE "CURRENT LONDON CONFERENCE OF MUSLIM LEADERS" TO WHICH PAIWAND MADE REFERENCE (PARA 5)?
AMSTUTZ

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